(ख) क्या इन मामलों को निपटाने के लिए गठित समिति ने अपना प्रतिवेदन अब प्रस्तुत कर दिया है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो कब और उसका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ङ) क्या प्रतिवेदन प्रस्तुत किए जाने के संबंध में उक्त समिति के लिए कोई तिथि निर्धारित कर दी गई है?

कल्याण मंत्री (श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामूवालिया): (क) अनुसूचित जनजातियों की सूचियों में शामिल करने के लिए पिछले अनेक वर्षों में प्राप्त लगभग 700 दावे लम्बित हैं। जहां तक अनुसूचित क्षेत्रों के रूप में क्षेत्रों की घोषणा का संबंध है, इस बारे में हिमाचल प्रदेश का ट्रांस-गिरी (गिरिपार) क्षेत्र का केवल एक मामला है।

(ख) से (ङ) अनुसूचित जाति तथा अनुसूचित जनजाति की सूचियों के संशोधन से संबंधित विभिन्न मुद्दों की जांच के लिए गठित सलाहकार समिति अपना कार्य पूर्ण नहीं कर सकी और यह अब अस्तित्व में नहीं है।

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Deferring the Implementation of New PDS

868. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have deferred the implementation of the revised Public Distribution System till June, 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Centre has already earmarked over 60 lakh tonnes of foodgrains for the purposes of revised Public Distribution System; and

(d) total number of people to the benefited and the expenditure to be incurred by Government if the said revised Public Distribution System is implemented?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a), (b) and (d) No, Sir. A Statement on the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has been made in the Rajya Sabha on 24.2.1997 and copies of the detailed guidelines issued in this regard have also been laid on the table of the House. As per the guidelines, the state Governments/UT Administrations are required to identify the beneficiaries who live Below the Poverty Line, based on the provisional estimates arrived at by the Planning Commission for the year 1993-94 adopting the methodology of "Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor" constituted by the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Late Prof. Lakdawala. According to this estimate, the number of Below Poverty Line population works out to 32.03 crores, which forms 35.97% of the total population in the country.

Based on the guidelines, the State Governments/UT Administrations have been asked to identify the beneficiaries Below Poverty Line, issue special ration cards to them and make all arrangements for delivery of foodgrains to the beneficiaries in a satisfactory and transparent manner. As soon as a State/UT completes this exercise, it can start deriving the benefits under the targeted PDS. The Scheme of Targeted PDS will, however, become effective throughout the country from 1st June, 1997.

(c) It is estimated that about 180 lakh tonnes of foodgrains will be issued to States/UTs under the revised/Targeted Public Distribution System.

Objections of Government of Kerala to New Public Distribution System

869. SHRI M.A. BABY: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Kerala has any reservation on the proposed PDS scheme for the people below poverty line;

(b) if so, the main objections; and

(c) the response of the Central Government to the same?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES,